

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An interdental brush comprising:

~~bristles-11~~ bristles (11);

a ~~wire-12~~ wire (12) with which the ~~bristles-11~~ bristles (11) are twisted; and

a ~~handle-13~~ handle (13) attached to the wire, wherein

the ~~handle-13~~ handle (13) is composed of a main ~~body-21~~ body (21) and a ~~sub-body-22~~ sub-body (22),

the main ~~body-21~~ body (21) is provided with a longitudinal ~~hole-41~~ hole (41) into which a base part of the ~~wire-12~~ wire (12) is inserted, and a lateral ~~hole-43~~ hole (43) intersecting the longitudinal ~~hole-41~~ hole (41),

the base part of the ~~wire-12~~ wire (12) is provided with a coming-off preventing bent ~~portion-51~~ portion (51) formed so as to be exposed to the lateral ~~hole-43~~ hole (43), and

the ~~sub-body-22~~ sub-body (22) is provided with an engagement ~~portion-52~~ portion (52) filling the lateral ~~hole-43~~ hole (43) so as to surround a periphery of the bent ~~portion-51~~ portion (51).

2. (Currently Amended) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 1, wherein a part of a surface of the main ~~body-21~~ body (21) is covered with the ~~sub-body-22~~ sub-body (22), and discrimination properties of the main ~~body-21~~ body (21) and the ~~sub-body-22~~ sub-body (22) are different ~~to each~~ from each other.

3. (Currently Amended) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 2, wherein the main ~~body-21~~ body (21) and the ~~sub-body-22~~ sub-body (22) are made of synthetic resin.

4. (Original) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 2, wherein a difference in the discrimination properties results from at least one of color, gloss and material.

5. (Currently Amended) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 1, wherein the main ~~body-21~~ body (21) comprises a shoulder ~~part-31~~ part (31), a tail ~~part-33~~ part (33) and a barrel ~~part-32~~ part (32) communicating the shoulder ~~part-31~~ part (31) and the tail ~~part-33~~ part (33) via a low step,

the lateral ~~hole-43~~ hole (43) is positioned in the barrel ~~part-32~~ part (32),
the ~~sub-body-22~~ sub-body (22) covers the barrel ~~part-32~~ part (32), and
boundaries between surfaces of the shoulder ~~part-31~~ part (31) and the tail ~~part-32~~ part (32)
and a surface of the ~~sub-body-22~~ sub-body (22) adjacent thereto are flush with each other.

6. (Currently Amended) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 2, wherein
the main ~~body-21~~ body (21) comprises a shoulder ~~part-31~~ part (31), a tail ~~part-33~~ part (33)
and a barrel ~~part-32~~ part (32) communicating the shoulder ~~part-31~~ part (31) and the tail ~~part-33~~ part (33)
part (33) via a low step,

the lateral ~~hole-43~~ hole (43) is positioned in the barrel ~~part-32~~ part (32),
the ~~sub-body-22~~ sub-body (22) covers the barrel ~~part-32~~ part (32), and
boundaries between surfaces of the shoulder ~~part-31~~ part (31) and the tail ~~part-32~~ part (32)
and a surface of the ~~sub-body-22~~ sub-body (22) adjacent thereto are flush with each other.

7. (Currently Amended) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 3, wherein
the main ~~body 21~~ body (21) comprises a shoulder ~~part 31~~ part (31), a tail ~~part 33~~ part (33)
and a barrel ~~part 32~~ part (32) communicating the shoulder ~~part 31~~ part (31) and the tail ~~part 33~~
part (33) via a low step,
the lateral ~~hole 43~~ hole (43) is positioned in the barrel ~~part 32~~ part (32),
the ~~sub-body 22~~ sub-body (22) covers the barrel ~~part 32~~ part (32), and
boundaries between surfaces of the shoulder ~~part 31~~ part (31) and the tail ~~part 32~~ part (32)
and a surface of the ~~sub-body 22~~ sub-body (22) adjacent thereto are flush with each other.

8. (Currently Amended) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 4, wherein
the main ~~body 21~~ body (21) comprises a shoulder ~~part 31~~ part (31), a tail ~~part 33~~ part (33)
and a barrel ~~part 32~~ part (32) communicating the shoulder ~~part 31~~ part (31) and the tail ~~part 33~~
part (33) via a low step,
the lateral ~~hole 43~~ hole (43) is positioned in the barrel ~~part 32~~ part (32),
the ~~sub-body 22~~ sub-body (22) covers the barrel ~~part 32~~ part (32), and
boundaries between surfaces of the shoulder ~~part 31~~ part (31) and the tail ~~part 32~~ part (32)
and a surface of the ~~sub-body 22~~ sub-body (22) adjacent thereto are flush with each other.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an interdental brush comprising the steps of:

forming, by primary resin molding, a main ~~body-21~~ body (21) of a ~~handle-13~~ handle (13) having a longitudinal ~~hole-41~~ hole (41) and a lateral ~~hole-43~~ insecting hole (43) intersecting the longitudinal ~~hole-41~~ hole (41);

inserting a base part of a ~~wire-12~~ wire (12), with which ~~bristles-11~~ bristles (11) are twisted, into the longitudinal ~~hole-41~~ hole (41) so as to be exposed to the lateral ~~hole-43~~ hole (43);

forming a coming-off preventing bent ~~portion-51~~ portion (51) at the base part of the ~~wire-12~~ wire (12) via the lateral ~~hole-43~~ hole (43); and

forming, by secondary resin molding, a ~~sub-body-22~~ sub-body (22) of the ~~handle-13~~ handle (13) such that a part thereof fills the lateral ~~hole-43~~ hole (43) so as to surround a periphery of the bent ~~portion-51~~ portion (51).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of producing the interdental brush as claimed in claim 9, wherein the step of forming the bent ~~portion-51~~ portion (51) is performed by inserting a rod-shaped jig J into the lateral ~~hole-43~~ hole (43) and pressing a tip part of the jig J onto a to-be-bent portion of the base part of the ~~wire-12~~ wire (12).

11. (Original) The method of producing the interdental brush as claimed in claim 9, wherein the same material is used in the primary resin molding and the secondary resin molding.

12. (Original) The method of producing the interdental brush as claimed in claim 10, wherein the same material is used in the primary resin molding and the secondary resin molding.